

REMARKS

The claims are currently rejected over US Patent No. 6 655 843 B2 (Suzuki). The '843 patent has a Section 102(e) effective date of November 25, 2002. However, the present application has a foreign priority date of June 27, 2002, which priority date is claimed in the original application transmittal letter and predates the effective date of the '843 patent.

To perfect the priority claim to the JP priority application, Applicant herewith submits a certified English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-187755 filed June 27, 2002. Accordingly, withdrawal of the current rejection based upon the '843 patent is requested.

The rejection is now moot, although Claim 1 is voluntarily replaced with new Claim 10. Claim 10 maintains a similar scope of patent protection and consideration of this claim is requested. Claim 1 is cancelled, while the dependency of Claims 2-5 is amended to depend from Claim 10. Additional conforming amendments are made to Claims 4 and 5.

The application is believed in condition for allowance and action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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